

# **STATEMENT OF SENATOR JAMES M. INHOFE IN SUPPORT OF JUDGE CHARLES BARNES GOODWIN'S CONFIRMATION**

**August 28, 2018**

- Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to offer my support for, and congratulate, Judge Charles Goodwin of Oklahoma City for being confirmed today as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.
- Judge Goodwin most recently served the Western District as a magistrate judge, and he has done so admirably and faithfully since his appointment in 2013.
- Judge Goodwin's service on the federal bench, combined with his career as a civil litigator before various federal district courts, U.S. circuit courts of appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court, and as a federal law clerk, provides him with the experience, knowledge, and perspective necessary to take on his new role of federal district court judge.
- Furthermore, Judge Goodwin has been a leader on federal civil procedure. He served as Chair of the Western District's Local Civil Rules Committee and, while in private practice, he taught seminars and authored articles on civil procedure for the Oklahoma Bar Association.
- Judge Goodwin is also active in his community, providing legal assistance to homeless veterans and volunteering in support of the improvement of public education in Oklahoma.
- During the process of looking for capable, well-qualified candidates for the Western District, my office heard from many people in the Oklahoma

legal community who worked with Judge Goodwin for many years and know him best.

- I think these colleagues and legal contemporaries speak better to the type of man and judge he is and I'd like to share some of their thoughts with you.
  - Kevin Donelson, current President of the Oklahoma Bar Association, wrote, "I have personally appeared before Magistrate Judge Goodwin on a number of matters. He has been judicious and courteous in all of the matters that I have appeared before him. The United States of America and the Western District of Oklahoma would [be] lucky to have Magistrate Judge Goodwin be a United States District Judge."
  - Seventeen former past presidents of the Oklahoma Bar Association wrote, "Each of us knows Charles in person or by reputation and believes that he is highly qualified for this position. As a lawyer and a judge, Charles has always exhibited a high degree of ethical conduct, professionalism, competence, hard work, and, as a judge, exceptional judicial temperament. We are confident he would make an outstanding District Judge..."
  - Mr. Harry Wood, a supervisor and then colleague of Judge Goodwin's at Crowe & Dunlevy, wrote, "In all my dealings with him, I found him to be extremely capable, highly dependable, very hard-working, and well organized." He went on to say, "I found him given to decency, honesty, integrity, even temper and good

humor...I cannot think of anyone that has a higher level of character, integrity, and judicial temperament.”

- Mr. Daniel Webber, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney for the Western District, stated that Judge Goodwin as a litigator “had a strong reputation for being a diligent but ethical advocate. I have never heard his integrity or his temperament called into question.”
- Finally, I will leave you with some words from Chief Judge Joe Heaton of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. Judge Heaton wrote, “I have reviewed various indicators of Judge Goodwin’s productivity, such as the number of reports and recommendations generated by him and the complexity of the matters assigned to him. I believe his productivity to be fully comparable with that of the other magistrate judges of this court.” Furthermore, Judge Heaton states, “Based on his service here and his experience as a partner and practicing lawyer with one of Oklahoma’s largest law firms, I believe Judge Goodwin is plainly qualified to be a U.S. District Judge.”
- Based on Judge Goodwin’s experience, expertise, and stature in the Oklahoma legal community, I have fully supported his nomination as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma and congratulate him on his well-deserved confirmation. Thank you Mr. President for the opportunity to address you on behalf of his confirmation.